# VETERANS BENEFITS & SERVICES



To better assist you, the veterans information listed in this booklet has been organized into 3 levels of available Veterans programs – <b>FEDERAL, STATE, and LOCAL</b> .
Much of the information contained in this booklet comes from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs web site at www.va.gov. For more state and local information, visit www.michigan.gov and www.michigan.gov/mvaa.
This booklet also provides valuable federal, state and local veteran contact information.
Prepared by the Michigan Legislature
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# Dear Veteran

# Thank You for Your Service . . .

It is indeed a pleasure to serve veterans who gave so much of themselves to preserve the freedoms we enjoy today. Your sacrifices have given us the security of peace in our homeland and abroad, as well as preserved and protected our constitutional right of selfgovernment, for which we are very grateful.



This booklet compiles material from federal, state, and local agencies for you, our veterans and your families, to:

- Provide information about benefits and services
- Provide links to direct sources computer-based and professional for answers to specific questions
- Assist in communicating more effectively with your elected representatives
- Educate state, nonprofit, and community providers about benefits and services available through other agencies or service providers

Eligibility for most Veterans Affairs (VA) benefits is based upon discharge from active military service under other than dishonorable conditions. Active service means full-time service as a member of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, or Coast Guard, or as a commissioned officer of the Public Health Service, the Environmental Services Administration, or the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Current and former members of the Selected Reserve may be eligible for benefits.

Any Michigan veteran, or dependent of a veteran, can request the assistance of a Veterans Service Officer or County Counselor. See page 44 for the listing of Veterans Service Organizations.

The Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency can be reached at **1-800-MICH-VET** (1-800-642-4838) or visit the website at www.michigan.gov/mvaa. The Federal Veterans Affairs Benefits and Services number is **1-800-827-1000**.

This booklet is intended as an introduction to the many programs and services available. Contact the sources cited to assist you and your family to obtain benefits you have earned.

Thank you for your service.



Information on eligibility for military service benefits is available from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency or your County Veterans Service Office.

# Education and Training

# Education and Training – U.S. Federal Programs

## Post-9/11 GI Bill

The Post-9/11 GI Bill (Chapter 33) is an education benefit program for service members and veterans who served on active duty on or after September 11, 2001. Benefits are payable for training pursued on or after August 1, 2009. No payments can be made under this program for training pursued before that date.

To be eligible, the service member or veteran must serve at least 90 aggregate days on active duty after September 10, 2001, and remain on active duty or be honorably discharged.

Veterans may also be eligible if they were honorably discharged from active duty for a service-connected disability after serving 30 continuous days after September 10, 2001.

Generally, service members or veterans may receive up to 36 months of entitlement under the Post-9/11 GI Bill. Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits do not expire for service members released from active duty after January 1, 2013 per the Forever GI Bill enacted in 2017. For individuals who left service prior to January 1, 2013, there is a 15-year time limit for the use of Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits.



The Forever GI Bill also allows the use of benefits to pay for online learning at non-institutions of higher learning; allows the transfer to the Post-9/11 GI Bill, any Reserve Educational Assistance Program (REAP) benefits lost due to the REAP program's sunset; made changes to survivors' and dependents' educational assistance; and added a monthly housing allowance.

www.va.gov/education/about-gi-bill-benefits/post-9-11

#### Transfer of Entitlement

The Department of Defense (DoD) may offer members of the Armed Forces on or after August 1, 2009, the opportunity to transfer Chapter 33 benefits to a spouse or dependent children. DoD and the military services must approve all requests for this benefit. Members of the Armed Forces approved for the Transfer of Entitlement (ToE) may only transfer any unused portion of their Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits while on active duty or in the Selected Reserve, subject to their period of eligibility. Transfer of Entitlement is not authorized post-discharge.

# The Yellow Ribbon G.I. Education Enhancement Program

The Yellow Ribbon G.I. Education Enhancement Program was enacted to potentially assist eligible individuals with payment of their tuition and fees in instances where costs exceed the in-state tuition charges at a public institution or the national maximum payable at private and foreign institutions. To be eligible, the student must be a veteran

receiving Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits at the 100% benefit rate payable, or be a transfer-of-entitlement-eligible dependent child.

The school of attendance must have accepted Veteran Affairs' (VA) invitation to participate in the program, state how much student tuition will be waived (up to 50%) and how many participants will be accepted into the program during the current academic year. VA will match the school's percentage (up to 50%) to reduce or eliminate out-of-pocket costs for eligible participants.

www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/yellow ribbon.asp

# Marine Gunnery Sergeant John David Fry Scholarship

This scholarship entitles children and surviving spouses of those who die in the line of duty on or after September 11, 2001, to use Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits.

#### Eligible children:

- Are entitled to up to 36 months of benefits at the 100% level
- Have 15 years to use the benefit beginning on their 18th birthday unless eligible under the new Forever GI Bill
- May use the benefit until their 33rd birthday if they became eligible before January 2013

#### Eligible spouses:

- Have 15 years after the service member's death to use the benefit (some exceptions to this expiration apply for those newly extended these benefits)
- Are no longer eligible if he/she remarries within the 15-year period www.benefits.va.gov/GIBILL/fry scholarship.asp

# Survivors and Dependents Educational Assistance (DEA)

Children and spouses of veterans who died on active duty, or who became 100% permanently disabled due to a service-related injury may qualify for educational benefits under the Survivors and Dependents Educational Assistance (DEA) program. This benefit is for eligible children and spouses in approved full-time degree and non-degree educational, apprentice, on-the-job, farm co-op programs, along with special restorative training programs at lower rates.

#### www.va.gov/education/survivor-dependent-benefits/

Dependents are not eligible for both the Fry Scholarship and DEA based on the same event. Unless a parent died prior to August 1, 2011, the child will be required to elect benefits from only one program.

# **Legacy Educational Benefits**

The Montgomery GI Bill (MGIB) provides a program of educational benefits to honorably discharged veterans. The participant generally must have a high school diploma or an equivalency certificate before beginning training. Completing a minimum of 12 credit hours toward a college degree may meet this requirement. Credits granted by colleges for life experiences may also be accepted.

#### **Education and Training**

Active duty MGIB-AD (Chapter 30) provides education benefits to Veterans who have at least two years of active duty. However, eligibility requirements are complex and veterans should review materials available from the VA to determine eligibility. In general, veterans who first entered active duty after June 30, 1985, and did not decline the MGIB in writing upon entry into active duty, veterans with remaining entitlement under the Vietnam Era GI Bill (Chapter 34, title 38, U.S. Code), veterans who were involuntarily separated for certain reasons or those who were separated under the voluntary separation incentive or special separation benefit programs, and former Veterans Educational Assistance Program participants who elected to convert to MGIB during the open window periods are eligible for the MGIB-AD.

Certain National Guard service members may also qualify if they served on full-time active duty in the National Guard between June 30, 1985 and November 29, 1989, elected to have National Guard service count toward establishing eligibility for MGIB during the 9-month window ending on July 9, 1997, and paid \$1,200.

Assistance may be used for college degree and certificate programs, technical or vocational courses, flight training, apprenticeships or on-the-job training, high-tech training, licensing and certification tests, entrepreneurship training, certain entrance examinations, and correspondence courses. Remedial, deficiency, and refresher courses may be approved under certain circumstances. Benefits are generally payable for 10 years following your release from honorable active service.

Veterans who qualify for Active Duty MGIB-AD (Chapter 30) benefits under MGIB may receive a monthly amount for full-time pursuit of an educational program. This stipend may be increased if the vet participated in the "buy up" program. MGIB payments are made directly to the vet, irrespective of the tuition and fees charged by the school.

Contact your county veterans service office or call the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) at **1-888-442-4551** for further information, particularly on eligibility. Additional information for school officials, veterans, and dependents can be found on the VA's Education Services website.

#### www.benefits.va.gov/gibill

# **VetSuccess on Campus**

This program is designed to provide on-campus benefits assistance and readjustment counseling to veterans completing their college educations and entering the labor market in viable careers. An experienced Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor and a Vet Center Outreach Coordinator are assigned at each campus to provide VA benefits outreach, support, and assistance to ensure their health, educational, and benefit needs are met.

Current Michigan locations include Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo Valley Community College, Kellogg Community College, Eastern Michigan University, University of Michigan - Ann Arbor, and Washtenaw Community College.

# Federal Pell Grant Program

The Federal Pell Grant Program provides need-based grants to low-income students to promote access to postsecondary education. Applicants must be undergraduate students who have not earned a bachelor's degree. Each applicant must be a U.S. citizen or an eligible noncitizen and needs to have a high school diploma or a GED or demonstrate the ability to benefit from the program.

#### **Pell Grant Eligibility**

The U.S. Department of Education uses a standard formula established by Congress to evaluate the information a student supplies when applying for a Pell Grant. This formula produces an EFC (expected family contribution) number, which will determine if the student is eligible for the grant. The formula relies heavily on families' federal tax returns.

#### **Award Amount**

The amount of the Pell Grant depends on the student's EFC and several other factors, including program funding.

#### How and When to Apply

Students apply not only for Pell Grants, but for all federal, state, and institutional financial aid programs (except scholarships) by completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The FAFSA form is available from high school guidance offices or complete online. Be aware of the application deadlines for submission and corrections.

#### www.studentaid.gov

# Veteran Rapid Retraining Assistance Program

The Veteran Rapid Retraining Assistance Program (VRRAP) was established to respond to veteran unemployment following the COVID-19 Pandemic. VRRAP offers education and training for high-demand jobs for veterans between the ages of 22 and 66 who have become unemployed because of the Pandemic, are not rated as totally disabled, and are not enrolled in a federal or state jobs program. VRRAP covers education and training programs approved under the GI Bill and Veteran Employment Through Technology Education Courses (VET TEC) that result in associate degrees, non-college degrees, and certificate programs. Please note, you cannot receive VRRAP benefits at the same time as you are receiving unemployment benefits (including CARES Act benefits), and you may not be eligible for other federal education benefits. For more information, please see the following website:

www.va.gov/education/other-va-education-benefits/veteran-rapid-retraining-assistance

# Education and Training – State of Michigan Programs MVAA Veteran-Friendly School Program

The Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency Veteran-Friendly School Program recognizes academic institutions of higher learning who are committed to supporting the needs of student veterans and their dependents. These institutions offer veteran-specific services such as career advising, on-campus veteran coordinators, evaluation of military training and experience with possible award of credit, and others. A full list of participating institutions can be found on the website.

www.michiganvets.force.com/veteranfriendlyschools/s/dashboard

# Michigan National Guard State Tuition Assistance Program

Public Act 259 of 2014 established the Michigan National Guard State Tuition Assistance Program (MINGSTAP) to provide tuition assistance to members of the Michigan National Guard who are attending any public or private college, university, vocational school, technical school or trade school located in Michigan. Qualifying members of the Guard can receive assistance per credit hour or per month for tuition and fees combined.

517-481-7640 mingstapapp.state.mi.us

# Department of Civil Rights, Division on Deaf, DeafBlind, and Hard of Hearing

The Michigan Department of Civil Rights responds to and advocates on behalf of Michigan's 1.3 million people with disabilities. The Division on Deaf, DeafBlind, and Hard of Hearing deals with issues involving Michigan citizens who are deaf or hard of hearing. Their mission is to provide statewide leadership to empower and integrate people with disabilities into all aspects of society. For more information, contact:

#### Division on Deaf, DeafBlind, and Hard of Hearing

Cadillac Place VP: **313-437-7035** 

3054 W. Grand Boulevard Toll-Free Voice/TTY: **877-499-6232** 

Suite 3-600 Fax: **313-456-3721** 

Detroit, MI 48202 E-Mail: **DODDBHH@michigan.gov** 

# Educational Benefits for Children of Disabled or Deceased Veterans

# **Tuition Grant Program**

The Children of Veterans Tuition Grant (CVTG) was established under Public Act 248 of 2005 to provide an undergraduate tuition program for children of certain deceased or disabled members of the armed forces of the United States.

The program is designed to provide undergraduate tuition assistance to certain children older than 16 and less than 26 years of age who have been a Michigan resident for the 12 months prior to application. To be eligible, a student must be the natural or adopted child of a Michigan veteran. Stepchildren of the veteran are not eligible. The veteran must have been a legal resident of Michigan immediately before entering military service and must not have later resided outside of Michigan for more than two years; or the veteran must have established legal residency in Michigan after entering military service.

Students may receive scholarship assistance for up to four academic years. Awards are determined by the student's enrollment status.

1-888-447-2687

www.michigan.gov/mistudentaid

Note: Select students and families and then MI student aid programs

# **Employment**

# **Employment – U.S. Federal Programs**

# Transition Assistance Program (TAP)

The Transition Assistance Program (TAP) was established to meet the needs of separating service members during their transition into civilian life. The program is coordinated with the U.S. Departments of Defense and Labor. Known as Transition GPS (Goals, Plans, Success), the program provides comprehensive services to our nation's service members and their spouses providing briefings that focus on education, benefits, VA health care, disability compensation, vocational rehabilitation, and employment benefits. A companion workshop for disabled veterans is also available. Participation is mandatory for separating service members.

A TAP virtual curriculum is available to service members who are unable to attend the TAP in person due to military exigencies.

www.benefits.va.gov/transition/tap.asp www.dol.gov/agencies/vets/programs/tap www.michigan.gov/mvaa

# Verification of Military Experience and Training

The Transition GPS (Goals, Plans, Success) website is designed to provide separating service members access to their Verification of Military Experience and Training (VMET) documents and completed Transition GPS Sessions. VMET documents help service members verify previous experience and training to potential employers, negotiate credits at schools, and obtain certificates or licenses. VMET documents are available only through Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marine Corps Transition Support offices and are intended for separating or retiring service members who have at least six months of active duty service. Service members should obtain VMET documents from their Transition Support office within 12 months of separation or 24 months of retirement.

www.dodtap.mil/

## **Veterans Preference for Federal Jobs**

Certain veterans, principally those who are disabled or who served on active duty during specified times, are entitled to preference for federal civil service jobs when hiring is from competitive lists of eligible candidates.

Preference is also provided for certain widows and widowers of deceased veterans who died in service; spouses of service-connected disabled veterans; and mothers of veterans who died under honorable conditions on active duty or have permanent and total service-connected disabilities. Individuals interested in federal information should visit the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) website.

www.fedshirevets.gov www.usajobs.gov

# The Vocational Readiness and Employment (VR&E) Program

The Vocational Readiness and Employment (VR&E) Program provides educational and vocational counseling to service members, veterans, and certain dependents at no charge. These counseling services are designed to help an individual choose a vocational direction, determine the course needed to achieve the chosen goal, and evaluate the career possibilities open to them.

#### Eligibility

Educational and vocational counseling services are available to transitioning service members within 180 days of the estimated date of discharge or release from active duty. The projected discharge must be under conditions other than dishonorable.

Veterans are eligible if not more than one year has elapsed since the date they were last discharged or released from active duty.

www.vba.va.gov/bln/vre

# **Homeless Veteran Community Employment Services**

Homeless Veteran Community Employment Services (HVCES) is an employment program aimed at helping job-ready veterans exiting homelessness and those on the brink of homelessness gain stable and long-term employment. Community Employment Coordinators work with local employers to identify suitable jobs based on a veteran's skills and abilities. Community Employment Coordinators work out of VA Medical Centers and are responsible for connecting homeless and at-risk veterans to appropriate VA and community-based employment services. For assistance in finding a Community Employment Coordinator in Michigan.

www.va.gov/homeless/cec-contacts.asp

# Reemployment Rights

A person who left a civilian job to enter active duty in the armed forces may be entitled to return to the job after discharge or release from active duty.

To be reemployed, four requirements must be met:

- The person must give advance notice of military service to the employer
- The cumulative absence from the civilian job shall not exceed five years (with some exceptions)
- The person must submit a timely application for reemployment
- The person must not have been released with a dishonorable or other punitive discharge

The law calls for the returning veteran to be placed in the job as if the veteran had remained continuously employed. This means that the person may be entitled to benefits that are based on seniority, such as pensions, pay increases, and promotions. The law also prohibits discrimination in hiring, promotion, or other advantages of employment on the basis of military service.

Emp	loyment
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Applications for reemployment should be given, verbally or in writing, to a person authorized to represent the company for hiring purposes. A record should be kept of the application. If there are problems gaining reemployment, the employee should contact the **Department of Labor Veterans' Employment and Training Service (VETS)** in the employer's state. This applies to private sector, as well as state, local, and federal government employees, including the Postal Service.

www.dol.gov/agencies/vets/programs/userra 1-866-487-2365

# **Employment – State of Michigan Programs**

# **MVAA Veteran-Friendly Employer Program (VFE)**

The Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency created the Veteran-Friendly Employer
Certification Program to assist employers in attracting veteran talent to their workplaces.
These employers have all committed to creating a veteran-friendly culture, have set
www.michigan.gov/mvaa/employment-new/panel-veterans/friendly-emp

# **Pure Michigan Talent Connect**

Michigan has recreated its labor exchange system under Pure Michigan Talent Connect. Talent Connect includes an online Talent Marketplace where job seekers can connect to job opportunities, education, and training and employers can connect to qualified talent. Talent Connect includes specific assistance for veterans to make a successful transition from military to civilian employment.

Written and video tutorials are available to help job seekers navigate Talent Connect.

Customer Service Center 1-888-522-0103 www.mitalent.org

# Occupational Licensing

Several state statutes have been revised to allow the Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA) to consider experience received in the military to be counted toward qualifications required for certain occupational licenses such as electrician and plumber. In addition, a number of license application fees have been waived for veterans with an honorable discharge.

www.michigan.gov/lara/0,4601,7-154-10573\_95401\_95403\_95404---,00.html

# **Workforce Development Agency**

The Workforce Development Agency's Veterans Employment Services provides program-specific services with eligibility requirements as defined by federal law. A host of intensive services are available to eligible veterans and spouses who are unable to obtain employment through the core services provided by Michigan Works! Service Centers.

For additional information on training and employment services available to veterans, contact your local **Michigan Works! Service Center**.

MIÇHIGAN

1-800-285-WORK (9675) www.michiganworks.org

# **Unemployment Compensation**

Veterans who do not begin civilian employment immediately after leaving military service may be eligible to receive weekly unemployment compensation for a limited time. Veterans attending school full-time may also be eligible for unemployment. Contact Michigan Works! for more information. To file your new unemployment claim or to reopen an established claim through the internet, see below.

#### How to File Your Claim

Online: www.michigan.gov/uia

**Phone:** To file your new claim or to reopen a claim through a toll-free telephone

number, call 1-866-500-0017 using a touch-tone telephone. TTY callers may use

1-866-366-0004.

Information Needed to File a Claim: To file a claim, you will need your Social Security number, your driver's license number or state identification number or your MARVIN PIN (if you have one), a copy of your DD-214, and the names and addresses of employers you have worked for in the past 18 months, your quarterly gross earnings, the first and last dates of employment with each employer and your date of birth. If you are not a U.S. citizen or national, you will need your Alien Registration Number and the expiration date of your work authorization.

If you have general questions about unemployment benefits, or if you have a question about your Claims by Mail application, call the **Telephone File Claim** at **1-866-500-0017** weekdays from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

# Reemployment Rights for Veterans

In 2002, the Michigan Legislature strengthened the Michigan law regarding reemployment of employees after military service (MCL 32.273). The act prioritizes the employment positions in which a person would be reemployed following active service. The act specifies that the person is entitled to the seniority and the seniority-based rights and benefits he or she would have otherwise been entitled to, as well as other rights provided to employees on a leave of absence. Under certain circumstances, a person may not be entitled to reemployment under the law. State reemployment rights, when enhanced or in addition to federal rights, are not superseded or diminished by federal law.

For more information, call the Veterans' Hotline at 1-800-642-4838.

# Veterans' Preference for State Jobs

The Michigan Civil Service Commission has information on state jobs. The Civil Service Commission provides for a veterans' hiring preference for Michigan state classified service through rules adopted by the commission. (Rule 3-8 provides for a preference for an eligible veteran or spouse of a veteran.)

A qualifying veteran, including retirees, and/or spouse must register with the Department of Civil Service using form CS-1791, and include the required documentation.

# Michigan Rehabilitation Services

Veterans with disabilities should also look into the State of Michigan Rehabilitation Services program administered by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services. Services may be available to supplement VA allowances for vocational rehabilitation in cases of special need or for vocational rehabilitation, guidance, and counseling. Employment services may also be available to veterans whose disabilities are not service-related.



1-800-605-6722
TTY: Dial 711 and provide toll-free number www.michigan.gov/mrs

#### Service-Disabled Veteran Business Owners

Service-disabled veteran business owners may be eligible for up to a 10% pricing preference when bidding for certain state government purchase contracts under MCL 18.1261 and for certain state construction contracts under MCL 18.1241. For more information, contact 1-517-388-6012.

# Apprenticeship Programs for Discharged Veterans

# U.S. Department of Labor Employment and Training Administration

Michigan veterans can advance their employment prospects by learning a trade or skill through participation in VA and federal Department of Labor on-the-job training or apprenticeships. These programs typically involve entering into a training contract for a specific period of time with an employer or union. There are many on-the-job training and apprenticeship opportunities including union plumber, hotel management, firefighter, and others.

www.dol.gov/agencies/eta

www.va.gov/education/about-gi-bill-benefits/how-to-use-benefits/on-the-job-training-apprenticeships

#### Helmets to Hardhats

Helmets to Hardhats is a national, nonprofit program that helps transitioning military, guardsmen, and reservists find quality career opportunities in the construction industry. Most career opportunities offered by the program are connected to federally-approved apprenticeship training programs. Such training is provided by the trade organizations themselves at no cost to the veteran. No prior experience is needed. All participating trade organizations conduct three- to five-year, earn-while-you-learn apprenticeship training programs. Because these apprenticeship programs are regulated and approved at both federal and state levels, veterans can utilize their Montgomery G.I. Bill benefits to supplement their income while they are learning valuable skills and on-the-job training.

1-866-741-6210 www.helmetstohardhats.org

# Health Care

# Health Care and Hospital Benefits – U.S. Federal Programs

Michigan has five full-service Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Centers, including:

LTC Charles S. Kettles VA Medical Center

2215 Fuller Road Ann Arbor, MI 48105

800-361-8387/734-769-7100

John D. Dingell VA Medical Center

4646 John R Street Detroit, MI 48201 **313-576-1000** 

Aleda E. Lutz VA Medical Center

1500 Weiss Street Saginaw, MI 48602

989-497-2500

Battle Creek VA Medical Center

5500 Armstrong Road Battle Creek, MI 49037

888-214-1247/269-966-5600

Oscar G. Johnson VA Medical Center

325 East H Street Iron Mountain, MI 49801

906-774-3300

In addition to full-service VA Medical Centers, there are numerous Community Based Outpatient Clinics located around the state (see page 26).

For most veterans, entry into the VA health care system begins by applying for enrollment.

**To apply**, complete VA Form 10-10EZ, Application for Health Benefits, which may be obtained from any VA health care facility or regional benefits office, and online.

www.vets.gov/health-care/how-to-apply 1-877-222-VETS (8387)

Once enrolled, veterans can receive health care at VA health care facilities anywhere in the country.

If you have questions about your eligibility, call your nearest VA facility or VA Health Benefits at **1-877-222-8387** to obtain the latest information.

#### **Basic Eligibility**

If you served in the active military service and were separated under any condition other than dishonorable, you may qualify for VA health care benefits. Current and former members of the Reserves or National Guard who were called to active duty by a federal order and completed the full period for which they were called or ordered to active duty may be eligible for VA health care benefits as well.

Most veterans who enlisted after September 7, 1980, or entered active duty after October 16, 1981, must have served 24 continuous months or the full period for which they were called to active duty in order to be eligible. This minimum duty requirement may not apply to veterans who were discharged for a disability incurred or aggravated in the line of duty, for a hardship or "early out," or those who served prior to September 7, 1980. Since there are a number of other exceptions to the minimum duty requirements, VA encourages all veterans to apply so that it may determine their enrollment eligibility.

Health Care	
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#### **Costs Overview**

Many veterans qualify for cost-free health care services based on a compensable service-connected condition or other qualifying factor. Other veterans may be required to pay copays for treatment of their nonservice-connection condition. While some veterans qualify for free health care based on certain eligibilities, most veterans will be required to complete a financial assessment at the time of enrollment to determine whether they are eligible for enrollment and for free health care services. If the veteran's gross household income (including spouse and dependents, if applicable) exceeds the VA income limits, the veteran may be required to pay a copay for health care services.

# **Services Requiring Copays**

Veterans whose income exceeds the established **VA Income Thresholds** as well as those who choose not to complete the financial assessment must agree to pay required copays to become eligible for VA health care services.

Some veterans qualify for free health care and/or prescriptions based on special eligibility factors. In addition, some services are exempt from inpatient and outpatient copays.

www.va.gov/health-care/copay-rates

# **Veteran Community Care**

The Veterans Choice Program was replaced with the Veteran Community Care Program effective June 6, 2019. Veterans who were eligible for care under the Veterans Choice Program should meet with their VA care team to determine if they are eligible for community care under the new program. Generally, veterans must receive approval from the VA prior to obtaining care from a community provider.

Veterans must meet <u>one</u> of six criteria to be eligible to receive community care:

- The veteran is in need of a service not available at a VA medical facility
- The veteran lives in a state or territory without a full-service VA medical facility
- The veteran has been grandfathered under the distance eligibility criteria of the former Veterans Choice Program
- The VA cannot provide care within certain designated access standards
- It is in the veterans best medical interest to receive community care
- A VA service line does not meet certain quality standards

Call the Community Care Call Center at 1-877-881-7618 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. (EST).

## Overseas Benefits

VA will reimburse for medical services for the treatment of service-connected disabilities and related conditions for veterans living or traveling outside the United States. All veterans living or planning to travel outside the U.S. should register.

**VA Foreign Medical Program Office** 

P.O. Box 469061 Denver, CO 80246-9061

1-877-345-8179

www.va.gov/communitycare/programs/veterans/fmp/index.asp

#### Online Health Services

VA offers veterans, service members, their dependents and caregivers their own personal health record through **My HealtheVet**, found at **www.myhealth.va.gov**.

My HealtheVet's free, online Personal Health Record is available 24/7 with internet access. Those with an upgraded account (obtained by completing the one-time in-person or online authentication process) can:

- Participate in secure messaging with VA health care team members
- View key portions of DoD military service information
- Get VA wellness reminders
- View VA appointments
- View VA lab results
- View VA allergies and adverse reactions

With My HealtheVet, veterans can access trusted health information to better manage personal health care and learn about other VA benefits and services.

# **Caregiver Programs and Services**

VA has long advocated for caregivers as vital partners in providing care worthy of the sacrifices by America's veterans and service members. VA medical centers house a designated caregiver support point of contact to coordinate caregiver activities and serve as a resource expert for veterans, their families and VA providers. Several programs are available for veteran caregivers including:

- Caregiver Support Line 1-855-260-3274
- Caregiver Support Coordinator
- Peer Support Mentoring
- Caregiver Education and Training Programs
- Family Support Services

Enhanced services are available for eligible participants and may include respite care, access to health care insurance, counseling, and a financial stipend under the **Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers Program**. Currently available for caregivers of eligible veterans seriously injured in the line of duty on or after September 11, 2001, the VA is working to expand the program, first to caregivers of eligible veterans injured on or before May 7, 1975 and then to cover veterans who served and were injured in the line of duty after May 7, 1975 to September 10, 2001.

For more information, contact a caregiver support coordinator located at the VA medical centers in Iron Mountain, Detroit, Saginaw, Battle Creek, or Ann Arbor (for facility phone numbers see page 26).

www.caregiver.va.gov

# **Emergency Mental Health Care**

The VA notes that for **immediate crisis situations**, call the **Veterans Crisis Line** at **988** and press 1. You can also **text 838255** or chat online at **veteranscrisisline.net/get-help/chat**. Also, same-day access to emergency mental health care is available at any VA health care facility nationwide.

The VA has expanded emergency mental health care to cover former service members with other-than-honorable administrative discharges. Effective July 5, 2017, all VA medical centers now offer emergency stabilization care for former service members who arrive at the facility with an emergent mental health need, no matter the individual's discharge status. Individuals with other-than-honorable discharge may receive care for up to 90 days on an inpatient, residential, or outpatient basis. If it is determined that the mental health condition is a result of a service-related injury, the service member becomes eligible for ongoing coverage for that condition, even with an other-than-honorable discharge.

# Mental Health Residential Rehabilitation Treatment Program

Mental Health Residential Rehabilitation Treatment Programs (MH RRTP) (including Domiciliary RRTPs) provide residential rehabilitative and clinical care to eligible veterans who have a wide range of problems, illnesses, or rehabilitative care needs including medical, psychiatric, substance use, homelessness, vocational, educational or social.

The MH RRTP provides a 24-hour therapeutic setting utilizing a peer and professional support environment. The programs help veterans work on improving their quality of life, maintaining their health, and participating in their communities. Evidence-based treatment for mental illness, including PTSD and substance use disorders, is provided. There are several types of MH RRTPs. Call **1-877-222-8387**, or your nearest benefits office or health care facility for additional information.

# **Outpatient Dental Treatment**

Outpatient dental benefits are provided by the VA according to law. Dental care is categorized in classes and in some cases, treatment may be limited. The following veterans may receive care:

- Have a service-connected compensable dental disability or condition
- Are a former prisoner of war
- Have service-connected disabilities rated 100% disabling or are unemployable due to service-connected conditions
- Are participating in a VA vocational rehabilitation program
- Those who apply for dental care within 180 days of discharge or release (under conditions other than dishonorable) from a period of active duty of 90 days or more during the Persian Gulf War era
- Have a service-connected noncompensable dental condition or disability resulting from combat wounds or service trauma
- Have a dental condition clinically determined by VA to be currently aggravating a service-connected medical condition

#### Health Care

- Are receiving outpatient care or are scheduled for inpatient care and require dental care for a condition complicating a medical condition currently under treatment
- Certain veterans enrolled in the VA Homeless Program for 60 consecutive days or more

Call the VA Health Center at 1-877-222-8387 for additional information.

# **Nursing Home Care**

VA provides nursing home services to veterans through three national programs:

- VA-owned and -operated Community Living Centers (CLC)
- State Veterans' Homes owned and operated by the states
- Community nursing home program

Each program has admission and eligibility criteria specific to the program. Nursing home care is available to veterans who meet eligibility criteria involving service-connected status, level of disability, and income. VA-provided nursing home care for all other veterans is based on available resources.

# Readjustment Counseling

The Vet Center Combat Call Center (1-877-WAR-VETS) is an around-the-clock confidential call center where combat veterans and their families can call to talk about their military experience or any other issue they are facing in their readjustment to civilian life. There are resources that veterans have available to help cope with the impact of war once back home. Families who have lost loved ones in the military may also experience grief beyond their ability to cope with alone. Help is available for these family members as well.



The Department of Veterans Affairs provides readjustment counseling services through community-based Vet Centers. This counseling is designed to help combat veterans readjust to civilian life. The staff is comprised of combat veterans from several eras as well as family members of combat veterans.

Veterans are eligible for readjustment counseling if they served in any combat theater or area of hostility. Also eligible are veterans who provided direct emergent medical care or mortuary services to the casualties of war while on active military service, those who experienced military sexual trauma, and those who served as a member of an unmanned aerial vehicle crew providing direct support to operations in a combat zone. Veterans who served in the active military during the Vietnam-era, but not in the Republic of Vietnam, must have requested services at a Vet Center before January 1, 2004. Vet Centers do not require enrollment in the VA Health Care System.

**Bereavement Counseling** is available at community-based Vet Centers to all immediate family members including spouses, children, parents, and siblings of service members who died while on active duty. Contact the nearest **Vet Center** (see page 26).

www.vetcenter.va.gov
The Vet Center Combat Call Center at 1-877-927-8387

#### Other Health Services

VA health care includes a number of other services including prosthetic and sensory aids, assistive equipment, respiratory therapy, artificial limbs, therapeutic shoes, and other durable medical equipment. Benefits are also available for veterans approved for a guide or service dog including veterinary care and equipment. Biological children of veterans with qualifying service in the Republic of South Vietnam or Republic of Korea with spina bifida or certain other birth defects may be eligible for various VA benefits. Also, the VA provides assistance for those veterans suffering from problems related to substance use and abuse, from unhealthy use of alcohol to life-threatening addictions.

www.va.gov/health

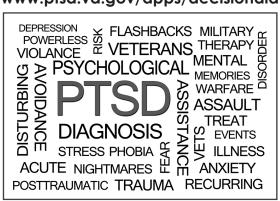
## **Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder**

According to the National Center for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, the condition known as Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, or PTSD, is a mental health problem that can occur following the experience or witnessing of life-threatening events such as military combat, natural disasters, terrorist incidents, serious accidents, or violent personal assaults like rape. Most survivors of trauma return to normal given a little time. However, some people will have stress reactions that do not go away on their own, or may even get worse over time. These individuals may develop PTSD. People who suffer from PTSD often relive the experience through nightmares and flashbacks, have difficulty sleeping, and feel detached or estranged, and these symptoms can be severe enough and last long enough to significantly impair the person's daily life.

PTSD is marked by clear biological changes as well as psychological symptoms. PTSD is complicated by the fact that it frequently occurs in conjunction with related disorders such as depression, substance abuse, problems of memory and cognition, and other problems of physical and mental health. The disorder is also associated with impairment of the person's ability to function in social or family life, including occupational instability, marital problems and divorces, family discord, and difficulties in parenting.

In June 2017, the VA launched a new, free online tool to help veterans compare various treatment options for PTSD. The interactive "PTSD Treatment Decision Aid" includes information about evidence-based PTSD treatments, video explanations of different treatment options, and testimonials from fellow veterans. The decision aid can be accessed online.

#### www.ptsd.va.gov/apps/decisionaid



#### Health Care

Additional information about PTSD is available from the National Center for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder website **www.ptsd.va.gov**, your nearest VA medical facility (see page 26) or one of the **Michigan Vet Centers** listed below:

#### **Macomb County Vet Center**

42621 Garfield Road, Suite 105 Clinton Township, MI 48038

1-586-412-0107

#### **Detroit Vet Center**

11214 E. Jefferson Avenue Detroit, MI 48214

1-313-822-1141

#### **Grand Rapids Vet Center**

2050 Breton Road, S.E. Grand Rapids, MI 49546

1-616-285-5795

#### Saginaw Vet Center

5360 Hampton Place, Suite 200 Saginaw, MI 48604

1-989-321-4650

#### **Dearborn Vet Center**

19855 Outer Drive, Suite 105 W. Dearborn, MI 48124

1-313-277-1428

#### **Escanaba Vet Center**

3500 Ludington Street, Suite 110 Escanaba, MI 49829

1-906-233-0244

#### **Pontiac Vet Center**

44200 Woodward Avenue, Suite 108 Pontiac, MI 48341

1-248-874-1015

#### **Traverse City Vet Center**

4960 Skyview Court Traverse City, MI 49684

1-231-935-0051

#### PTSD Coach

PTSD Coach is a mobile application that provides information about PTSD, self-help, and symptom management tools and resources available to assist in dealing with post trauma effects.

Several other apps are also available including PTSD Family Coach, Mindfulness Coach, CPT (Cognitive Processing Therapy) Coach, and PE (Prolonged Exposure) Coach. To learn more about each app, see the website.

www.ptsd.va.gov

# Traumatic Brain Injury

Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) is an injury caused by direct or indirect involvement with an Improvised Explosive Device (IED), attacks by mortars, grenades, bullets, car accidents, or falls

It is sometimes called the invisible wound because the injury can be sustained without visible external wounds. The extent of damage from TBI might not be realized until after the soldier, marine, airman, or sailor is back home. Further, the symptoms may not be recognized as TBI and may even be confused with PTSD.

The Brain Injury Association of Michigan (BIAMI) works to improve the lives of those affected by brain injury through education, advocacy, research, and local support groups.

1-800-772-4323 or 1-800-444-6443 www.biami.org www.michigan.gov/tbi

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# **Coaching Into Care**

Coaching Into Care provides a "coaching" service for family and friends of veterans who become aware of a veteran's post-deployment difficulties and need assistance in finding help for the veteran. Coaching involves helping the caller figure out how to motivate the veteran to seek services. The service is free and provided by licensed clinical social workers and psychologists. The goal of the service is to help the veteran and family members find the appropriate services in their community. All calls are confidential, except for cases in which the lives of the caller, the veteran, or others may be in danger.

Call to talk with a team member.

www.mirecc.va.gov/coaching 1-888-823-7458

# **Military Exposures**

The VA presumes that specific disabilities diagnosed in certain veterans were caused by exposures during military service and offers health care benefits for veterans who may have been exposed to certain environmental hazards, including Agent Orange related diseases, Gulf War veterans' illnesses, certain infectious diseases, and radiation related diseases. The VA also presumes that Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) diagnosed in all veterans with 90 days or more continuous active military service is related to their service. ALS, however, is not associated with a specific military exposure.

# **Health Registries**

The VA's health registry evaluation is a free, voluntary medical assessment for veterans who may have been exposed to certain environmental hazards during military service. The VA has established several health registries to track and monitor the health of specific groups of veterans, including the Agent Orange Registry, Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry, Gulf War Registry, Depleted Uranium Follow-Up Program, and Toxic Embedded Fragment Surveillance Center.

# Agent Orange, Radiation, Depleted Uranium, and Gulf War Exposures

Certain veterans are presumed to have been exposed to Agent Orange and other herbicides used in support of military operations during their time of service. Fourteen illnesses are presumed by VA to be service-connected for such veterans.

Veterans eligible for the agent orange registry health exam include veterans who served in Vietnam between 1962 and 1975, those who served on smaller river patrol and swift boats (Brown Water Veterans), and Blue Water Navy veterans; veterans who served in or near the Korean Demilitarized Zone between September 1, 1967 and August 31, 1971; and certain air force and army veterans who served in Thailand anytime between February 28, 1961 and May 7, 1975. Other eligible veterans include those who may have been exposed to herbicides during a military operation or as a result of testing, transporting, or spraying herbicides for military purposes.

For veterans who participated in "radiation risk activities" as defined in VA regulations while on active duty, active duty for training, or inactive duty training, certain conditions are presumed to be service-connected, including all forms of leukemia (except for

chronic lymphocytic leukemia); several cancers; bronchiolo-alveolar carcinoma; multiple myeloma; lymphomas (other than Hodgkin's disease), and primary liver cancer (except if cirrhosis or hepatitis B is indicated).

To determine service connection for other conditions or exposures not eligible for presumptive service connection, VA considers factors such as the amount of radiation exposure, duration of exposure, elapsed time between exposure and onset of the disease, gender and family history, age at time of exposure, the extent to which a non-service-related exposure could contribute to disease, and the relative sensitivity of exposed tissue.

Gulf War veterans with chronic disabilities may receive disability compensation for chronic disabilities resulting from undiagnosed illnesses and/or medically unexplained chronic multi-symptom illnesses defined by a cluster of signs or symptoms. A disability is considered chronic if it has existed for at least six months.

The undiagnosed illnesses must have appeared either during active service in the Southwest Asia theater of operations or by December 31, 2021 and be at least 10% disabling.

To learn more about VA health registries and military exposures, contact VA Health Care at **1-877-222-8387**.

www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/benefits/health-care.asp

# Home Improvements and Structural Alterations Program

The Home Improvements and Structural Alterations Program provides funding for eligible veterans to make medically necessary home improvements for the continuation of treatment or for disability access to the home and essential lavatory and sanitary facilities. Home improvement benefits for service-connected reasons and for nonservice-connected reasons may be provided. For application information, contact the prosthetic representative at the nearest VA medical center or outpatient clinic (see page 26).

# Health Care and Hospital Benefits – State of Michigan Veteran Navigators

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) created the Veteran Navigator program to assist veterans and military families in connecting with federal, state and local resources regardless of service era or discharge type. Serious issues regarding mental health, substance abuse, housing, and other areas of concern can be addressed by Veteran Navigator statewide. To find a Veteran Navigator that serves your area, see website.

www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/0,5885,7-339-71550\_2941\_93573-501026--,00.html

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# Michigan Veterans Homes

Michigan Veterans Homes provide long-term nursing care and services for veterans in their own homes. Many of these services offered, including recreational outings and community events, are not available in long-term care facilities. Michigan Veterans Homes also provide in-home opportunities that are tailored to the veteran's needs. There are three locations which offer different services. For more information on the particular services of a location, please contact the locations below:

Michigan Veteran Homes

at Grand Rapids 2950 Monroe Avenue NE Grand Rapids, MI 49505 Main Line: 616-364-5300 Admissions: 616-345-6110

DMVA-GRHV-Admissions@michigan.gov

Michigan Veteran Homes

DJ Jacobetti 425 Fisher Street Marquette, MI 49855 Main Line: **906-226-3576** Admissions: **906-225-6889** 

DMVA-DJJHV-Admissions@michigan.gov

Michigan Veteran Homes

at Chesterfield Township 47901 Sugarbush Road

Chesterfield Township, MI 48047

Main Line: **586-210-7102** Admissions: **586-210-7103** 

DMVA-MVHCT-Admissions@michigan.gov

# Veterans' Facility Ombudsman

An ombudsman has been established within the Michigan Legislature by PA 198 of 2016. The Veterans' Facility Ombudsman will investigate complaints and concerns brought by residents of the veterans homes or their family members.

To file a complaint or to learn more about how the ombudsman can be of assistance:

1-517-373-1347 MVFO@legislature.mi.gov council.legislature.mi.gov/VeteranOmbudsman/mvfo

## **Veterans Treatment Court**

Michigan's **Veterans Treatment Courts** address the need to better support Michigan veterans and assist them with their transition to civilian life. Veterans Treatment Court uses a hybrid integration of drug court and mental health court principles. The courts promote sobriety, recovery, and stability through a coordinated response that involves collaboration with the traditional partners found in drug courts and mental health courts, as well as the Department of Veterans Affairs health care networks, Veterans Benefits Administration, state Departments of Veterans Affairs, volunteer mentors, and organizations that support veterans and veterans' families. To be eligible to participate in veterans treatment court, a veteran cannot be charged with a violent offense. He or she must complete a confidential preadmissions screening and evaluation assessment. Twenty-one district and six circuit courts have established veterans treatment courts as allowed by law.

# **Homeless Veterans**

The Health Care for Homeless Veterans (HCHV) program serves as the hub for a myriad of housing and other services that provide VA with a way to reach and assist homeless veterans by offering them entry to VA care.

Outreach is the core of the HCHV program. The central goal is to reduce homelessness among veterans by conducting outreach to those who are the most vulnerable and not currently receiving services and engaging them in treatment and rehabilitative programs.

The Contract Residential Treatment program, a part of the HCHV program, places veterans with serious mental health diagnoses into quality, community-based, supportive housing.

The VA also uses Stand Down events to reach homeless veterans to provide food, shelter, clothing, health screenings, counseling, and referrals. Stand Downs are typically one- to three-day events and are held in numerous cities throughout the year.

#### **HCHV** contacts:

VA Ann Arbor Healthcare System: 734-769-7100
Battle Creek VA Medical Center: 269-966-5600
John D. Dingell VA Medical Center, Detroit: 313-576-1000
Oscar G. Johnson VA Medical Center, Iron Mountain: 906-774-3300
Aleda E. Lutz VA Medical Center, Saginaw: 989-497-2500

The **National Call Center for Homeless Veterans (NCCHV)** assists homeless veterans, at-risk veterans, their families and other interested parties with access to appropriate VA and community-based resources. The call center provides trained VA staff members 24-hours a day, seven days a week that assess a caller's needs and connects them to appropriate resources. The call center can be reached at **1-877-4AID VET (1-877-424-3838)**.

The Housing and Urban Development-Veterans Affairs Supported Housing (HUD-VASH) program provides permanent housing and ongoing case management for eligible homeless veterans who would not be able to live independently without the support of case management. These services may be accessed at VA medical centers and community-based outreach clinics.

Through the **Supportive Services for Veteran Families** program, VA aims to improve very low-income veteran families' housing stability by providing supportive services to families in or transitioning to permanent housing. VA funds community-based organizations to provide eligible veteran families with outreach, case management and assistance in obtaining VA and other benefits. Several Michigan organizations have received funding to assist Michigan veterans. For assistance call **1-877-4-AID-VET**.

**Compensated Work Therapy (CWT)** provides veterans with realistic and meaningful vocational opportunities, encouraging successful reintegration into the community at the veterans' highest functional level. An individual rehabilitation plan is developed for each veteran allowing veterans to work for pay, learn new job skills, and relearn successful work habits.

The **Transitional Work (TW)** program provides a therapeutic residential setting for veterans involved in CWT. TW provides a bridge between hospitalization or intensive outpatient treatment and successful reintegration. Five centers in Michigan have CWT programs (Ann Arbor, Battle Creek, Detroit, Iron Mountain, and Saginaw). Battle Creek also has a TW program. Veterans should call the medical center near them for additional information on CWT or TW (numbers are listed on page 26).

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The **Health Care for Re-Entry Veterans (HCRV)** program offers outreach, referrals and short-term case management assistance for incarcerated veterans who may be at risk for homelessness upon their release.

www.va.gov/homeless/reentry.asp

# Michigan Programs for Homeless Veterans

If you are in immediate need of shelter, call the **Homeless Shelter Hotline** at **1-800-A-SHELTER (1-800-274-3583)**. They will arrange for a temporary emergency shelter or motel stay.

# Veterans Housing Program - Volunteers of America

Volunteers of America Michigan is the largest contract provider of veterans services in Mid-Michigan. Volunteers of America Michigan operates a 50-bed overnight emergency shelter for men and a 14-bed overnight emergency shelter for women and children in the Lansing area.

Volunteers of America Michigan offers additional services for veterans statewide.

www.voami.org/veterans

Michigan Volunteers of America, Michigan Housing Department

21415 Civic Center Drive, Suite 306 Southfield, MI 48076

Phone: **1-248-945-0101** 

Michigan Coalition Against Homelessness

15851 S. Old US-27 Building 30, Suite 315 Lansing, MI 48906

Phone: 1-517-485-6536 Fax: 1-517-485-6682 www.mihomeless.org

# Women Veterans Health Care

At each VA Medical Center nationwide, a Women Veterans Program Manager is designated to advise and advocate for women veterans. She can help coordinate all services needed, from primary care to specialized care for chronic conditions or reproductive health.

Women veterans who are interested in receiving care at VA should contact the nearest VA Medical Center and ask for the **Women's Veterans Program Manager**.

VA provides management of acute and chronic illnesses, preventive care, contraceptive services, menopause management, cancer screenings, including pap smear and mammograms, and gynecology. Maternity care is covered in the medical benefits package. Women veterans receive maternity care from an OB/GYN, and care for their newborn children is covered for seven days after birth. Infertility evaluation and limited treatments are also available.

Women Veterans Call Center Toll-Free: 1-855-829-6636 www.womenshealth.va.gov



# Michigan VA Medical Facilities and Outpatient Clinics

Various U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs medical facilities operate in Michigan. They are listed below by the city in which they are located.

#### **Full Service Medical Facilities**

LTC Charles S. Kettles VA Medical Center

2215 Fuller Road Ann Arbor, MI 48105 **734-769-7100** 

**Battle Creek VA Medical Center** 

5500 Armstrong Road Battle Creek, MI 49037

269-966-5600

John D. Dingell VA Medical Center

4646 John R Street Detroit, MI 48201 **313-576-1000**  Oscar G. Johnson VA Medical Center

325 East H Street Iron Mountain, MI 49801

906-774-3300

Aleda E. Lutz VA Medical Center

1500 Weiss Street Saginaw, MI 48602 **989-497-2500** 

**Ann Arbor VA Clinic** 

3800 Packard Road Ann Arbor, MI 48105

734-222-7600

**Green Road VA Clinic** 

2500 Green Road Ann Arbor, MI 48105

734-769-7100

**Piquette Street VA Clinic** 

301 Piquette Street Detroit, MI 48202-3513

313-576-1580

**Century Avenue VA Clinic** 

620 Century Ave., Southwest #120 Grand Rapids, MI 49503-4977

616-356-1746

#### Outpatient and community-based outpatient clinics, and veterans centers

Alpena

180 N. State Avenue 49707

989-356-8720

**Bad Axe** 

1142 S. Van Dyke Road

Suite 100 48413 989-269-7445

**Benton Harbor** 

115 E. Main Street 49022

269-934-9123

Cadillac

1909 N. Mitchell Street 49601

231-775-4401

Clare

11775 N. Isabella Road 48617

989-386-8113

Dearborn

19855 Outer Drive, Suite 105 W

Dearborn, MI 48124

313-277-1428

Detroit

11214 E. Jefferson Avenue

Detroit, MI 48214

313-822-1141

Escanaba

3500 Ludington Street, Suite 110

Escanaba, MI 49829

906-233-0244

**Flint** 

2360 S. Linden Road 48532

810-720-2913

Gaylord

2782 S. Otsego 49735

989-732-7525

**Grand Rapids** 

2050 Breton, S.E. 49546

616-285-5795

Grayling

1680 Hartwick Pines Road 49738

989-344-2002

Hancock

787 Market Street Suite 9 49930

906-482-7762

Ironwood

629 W. Cloverland Drive

Suite 1 49938

906-932-0032

Jackson Michigan Center

4328 Page Avenue 49254

517-764-3609

Lansing

5656 S. Cedar Street 48911

517-267-3925

**Mackinaw City** 

14540 Mackinaw Highway 49701

231-436-5176

**Macomb County** 

42621 Garfield Road, Suite 105 Clinton Township, MI 48038

586-412-0107

Manistique

813 E. Lakeshore Drive 49854

906-341-3420

Marquette

1414 W. Fair Avenue Suite 285 49855

906-226-4618

Menominee

1110 10th Avenue Suite 101 49858

906-863-1286

Muskegon

5000 Hakes Drive 49441

231-798-4445

Oscoda

5671 Skeel Avenue

Suite 4 48750

989-747-0026

Pontiac

44200 Woodward Avenue

Suite 208 48341

248-332-4540

Saginaw

4241 Barnard Road 48603

800-406-5143

Sault Ste. Marie

509 Osborn Boulevard Suite 306 49783

906-253-9383

**Wvomina** 

5838 Metro Way 49519

616-249-5300

Yale

7470 Brockway Road 48097

810-387-3211

# Monetary Benefits

# National Resource Directory

The **National Resource Directory** is part of the eBenefits site. This directory provides access to thousands of services and resources at the national, state, and local levels to support recovery, rehabilitation, and community reintegration for wounded warriors, veterans, their families, and caregivers. The NRD includes extensive information for veterans seeking resources on VA benefits such as disability benefits, pensions for veterans and their families, VA health care insurance and the GI Bill.

infonrd.osd@mail.mil www.nrd.gov 1-800-827-1000

#### **eBenefits**

Through **eBenefits** veterans can apply for benefits, view their disability compensation claim status, access official military personnel documents (e.g., DD Form 214, Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty), obtain a VA-guaranteed home loan Certificate of Eligibility, and register for and update direct deposit information for certain benefits. New features are added regularly.

Veterans must register for an eBenefits account at one of two levels: Basic or Premium. A premium account allows the user to access personal data in VA and DoD systems, as well as apply for benefits online, check the status of claims, update address records, and more. A premium account is free, but users must prove their identity. Those who register with a common access card will automatically receive a premium account. The basic account allows access to information entered into eBenefits by the veteran only. Basic accounts cannot access VA or DoD systems.

Online: www.ebenefits.va.gov

Phone: 1-800-827-1000 In Person: VA regional office

# **VA Disability Compensation**

VA disability compensation is a monetary benefit paid to veterans who are disabled by injury or disease incurred or aggravated during active military service. The service of the veteran must have been terminated through separation or discharge under conditions that were other than dishonorable. Disability compensation varies with the degree of disability and the number of dependents, and is paid monthly.

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Disability Percentage	Monthly Payment
10 percent	\$ 152.64
20 percent	301.74
30 percent	467.39
40 percent	673.28
50 percent	958.44
60 percent	1,214.03
70 percent	1,529.95
80 percent	1,778.43
90 percent	1,998.52
100 percent	3,332.06

Veterans with disability ratings between

30 and 100 percent are eligible for additional allowances for a spouse and for each minor child, for children 18-23 years of age attending school, child if disabled before 18 years of age, and dependent parent. The amount depends on the disability rating.

## **Pensions**

Pension benefits are available to certain veterans based on need. To be eligible for pension benefits, a veteran must be 65 or older, or totally and permanently disabled, or a patient in a nursing home receiving skilled nursing care, or receiving social security disability benefits. Service requirements also apply. The veteran's discharge must have been under conditions other than dishonorable and their disability must be for reasons other than their own willful misconduct. Payments are made to bring the veteran's total income, including other retirement or Social Security income, to a level set by Congress. Unreimbursed medical expenses may reduce countable income for VA purposes.

#### www.benefits.va.gov/pension

# Social Security Benefits

Social Security provides expedited processing of disability claims for disabled veterans.

Monthly retirement, disability and survivor benefits under Social Security are payable to veterans and dependents if the veteran has earned enough work credits under the program. In addition, a veteran may qualify at age 65 for Medicare's hospital insurance and medical insurance. Medicare protection is available to people who have received Social Security disability benefits for 24 months, and to insured people and their dependents who need dialysis or kidney transplants, or who have amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (more commonly known as Lou Gehrig's disease).

Those 65 or older and those who are blind or otherwise disabled may be eligible for monthly Supplemental Security Income (SSI) payments if they have little or no income or resources. States may supplement the federal payments to eligible persons and may disregard additional income.

Upon the veteran's death, a one-time payment may be made to the veteran's spouse or child.

www.socialsecurity.gov 1-800-772-1213

# Additional Monetary Benefits for Eligible Military Retirees

**Combat-Related Special Compensation (CRSC)** provides military retirees a monthly compensation that is intended to replace some or all of their retired pay that is withheld due to receipt of VA disability compensation.

Disabilities related to in-service exposure to hazards (e.g., Agent Orange, Gulf War illnesses, radiation exposure) for which VA awards disability compensation are considered combat-related for CRSC purposes.

#### Air Force

#### **CRSC Program Office**

550 C Street West

Joint Base San Antonio – Randolph, TX 78150

Phone: 1-210-565-0102

# Army Department of the Army

U.S. Army Human Resources Command ATTN: AHRC-PDP-C (CRSC), Dept. 480 1600 Spearhead Division Avenue

Fort Knox, KY 40122-5408 Phone: **1-888-276-9472** 

## **Coast Guard**

# Commander (PSC-PSD-MED)

Personnel Service Center

2703 Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue, SE

Washington D.C. 20593-7200

Phone: 1-202-372-2398

# Navy and Marine Corps Department of the Navy

Secretary of the Navy Council of Review Boards

ATTN: Combat-Related Special Compensation Branch

720 Kennon Street SE, Suite 309

Washington Navy Yard, DC 20374-5023

Phone: 1-877-366-2772

**Disability Compensation for Presumptive Conditions** – VA presumes that specific disabilities diagnosed in certain veterans were caused by their military service. If one of these conditions is diagnosed in a veteran in one of these groups, VA presumes that the circumstances of his/her service caused the condition, and disability compensation can be awarded. Certain time limits for diagnosis apply depending on the disease.

All veterans who develop Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS), also known as Lou Gehrig's Disease, at any time after separation from service may be eligible for compensation for that disability. Select Presumptive Disability Benefits for Certain Groups of Veterans.

#### www.benefits.va.gov/benefits/factsheets.asp



# Home Loans and Tax Credits

# Home Loan Guaranties – U.S. Federal Programs

Veterans Affairs loan guaranties may be made to eligible service members, veterans, reservists, National Guard, and unmarried surviving spouses for the purchase of homes, condominiums, and manufactured homes and for refinancing loans. VA home loans are usually handled by private lenders, with the VA "standing behind" the loan to guarantee a portion of it. Applicants must have a good credit rating, have an income sufficient to support mortgage payments, and agree to live in the property.



#### A VA loan guaranty can be used to:

- Buy or build a home
- Buy an approved residential condominium
- Repair, alter, or improve a veteran's home
- Refinance an existing home loan
- Buy a manufactured home and/or a lot
- Install a solar heating or cooling system or other energy-efficient improvements

# Service Eligibility

Applications under other than dishonorable conditions.

Generally, service during:

 WWII
 09/16/40 to 07/25/47

 Post WWII
 07/26/47 to 06/26/50

 Korean
 06/27/50 to 01/31/55

 Post Korean
 02/01/55 to 08/04/64

Vietnam 08/05/64 to 05/07/75 or beginning 02/28/61 for veterans who served in

the Republic of Vietnam

Post Vietnam 05/08/75 to 08/01/80 Persian Gulf Era 08/02/90 to the present

**Reservists** and **National Guard** members are eligible if they were activated after August 1, 1990, served 6 years and have 90 days of active service, and received an honorable discharge.

Until the **Gulf War Era** is ended, persons on active duty are eligible after serving 90 continuous days.

A funding fee must be paid to VA unless the veteran is exempt from such a fee because he or she receives VA disability compensation. The fee may be paid in cash or included in the loan. Closing costs such as VA appraisal, credit report, loan processing fee, title search, title insurance, recording fees, transfer taxes, survey charges, or hazard insurance may not be included in the loan.

#### VA Assistance to Veterans in Default

VA urges all veterans who are encountering problems making their mortgage payments to speak with their servicers as soon as possible to explore options to avoid foreclosure. Contrary to popular opinion, servicers do not want to foreclose because foreclosure costs a lot of money. Depending on a veteran's specific situation, servicers may offer any of the following options to avoid foreclosure:

- Repayment Plan
- Special Forbearance
- Loan Modification
- Short Sale
- Deed-in-Lieu of Foreclosure
- Additional time to arrange a private sale

If the loan servicer is unable to help, the VA has loan technicians in eight Regional Loan Centers and a special servicing center who take an active role exploring all options to avoid foreclosure. Veterans with **VA-guaranteed home loans** can call **1-877-827-3702** to reach the nearest VA office where loan specialists are prepared to discuss potential ways to help save the loan. Veterans with non-VA-guaranteed loans may also call this number. However, VA does not have the legal authority to intervene on a non-VA-guaranteed borrower's behalf.

Veterans may be able to refinance a non-VA-guaranteed loan with a VA-guaranteed loan which may be helpful in situations where the veteran is at risk of defaulting. Finally, VA warns homeowners behind in their payments to be careful about accepting help from strangers. Contact your mortgage lender or the Loan Guaranty Division for assistance.

# **Specially Adapted Homes**

VA has two grants available for veterans with certain service-connected disabilities to assist in either building a new specially adapted home, adapting a home they already own, or in purchasing an existing home to modify and remodel to meet their disability requirements. Eligible veterans may receive a grant up to three times the sum total not to exceed the maximum dollar amount. The maximum dollar

amount for the Specially Adapted Housing **(SAH)** grant is \$109,986 for fiscal year 2023. The maximum dollar amount for the Special

Home Adaptation **(SHA)** grant is \$22,036 for fiscal year 2023. Eligible veterans should apply early.

Specially Adapted Housing (SAH) Special Housing Adaptation (SHA) sahinfo.vbaco@va.gov 1-877-827-3702



# State of Michigan Benefits

#### Tax Benefits

The **Home Heating Credit** is designed to assist low-income families and seniors in paying their home heating costs. Homesteads can be a rented apartment or a mobile home on a lot in a mobile home park. Qualified disabled veterans or their spouses may be eligible for an increased credit. Applications for the Home Heating Credit are accepted from mid to late January through September 30 of each year.

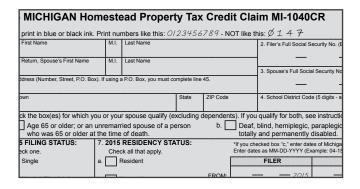
The **Michigan Homestead Property Tax Credit** is available if the homestead is located in Michigan, the owner was a Michigan resident for at least six months during the tax year, and the owner pays property taxes or rents a house or apartment in the state. Not all taxpayers are eligible for this tax credit. Some veterans are eligible for an increased credit (see MI-1040CR-2). Homestead Property Tax Credit forms must be filed by the time state income tax forms are due each April. Tax forms MI-1040CR-2 or MI-1040CR can be found online.

#### www.michigan.gov/treasury 1-517-636-4486 or 1-517-373-3200

The **Disabled Veteran Property Tax Exemption** allows certain honorably discharged, disabled veterans (or their surviving unremarried spouses) to apply for an exemption for their homestead from property taxation. To qualify, a veteran must meet one of these three qualification categories:

- The disabled veteran must have been determined by the United States VA to be permanently and totally disabled as a result of military service and entitled to veterans' benefits at the 100% rate
- The disabled veteran must have received a certificate from the United States VA, or
  its successors, certifying that he or she is receiving or has received pecuniary
  assistance due to disability for specially adapted housing
- The disabled veteran must have been rated by the United States VA as unemployable

A qualified veteran must annually submit an affidavit and a certificate from the VA confirming the monetary assistance for specially adapted housing. Contact your township supervisor or other assessing officer for further information and deadlines.



Contact the Michigan Department of Treasury for further information on the Homestead Property Tax Credit.

# Life Insurance

# Veterans' Group Life Insurance (VGLI)

Active duty members and reservists of uniformed services are automatically insured for \$400,000 under the Service Members' Group Life Insurance (SGLI). Also available is traumatic injury group life insurance and family coverage.

At the time of separation from service, SGLI can be converted to either Veterans' Group Life Insurance (VGLI) or a commercial plan through participating companies. You must apply to convert SGLI to VGLI within one year and 120 days from discharge. If you submit your application within 240 days after discharge you do not need to submit evidence of good health. Those who apply after the no-health period are required to answer questions about their health.

Once enrolled in VGLI, policyholders have an opportunity to increase their VGLI coverage by \$25,000, once every 5 years, up to the maximum \$400,000 until age 60.

For monthly premium rates for VGLI see the website.

#### www.benefits.va.gov/INSURANCE/vgli\_rates\_new.asp

Service members who are totally disabled at the time of separation are eligible for free SGLI Disability Extension of up to two years. Individuals covered under SGLI Disability Extension are automatically converted to VGLI subject to payment of premiums. They must apply to the Office of Service Members' Group Life Insurance (OSGLI) for the SGLI Disability Extension.

Spousal and dependent coverage cannot at present be carried over into the Veterans' Group Life Insurance program; however, spouses have the option of converting their coverage to a private life insurance policy with a participating company within 120 days of the service member leaving active duty or if the service member drops the primary SGLI coverage.

Apply for VGLI through eBenefits or by completing and mailing form SGLV 8714.

www.benefits.va.gov/INSURANCE/forms/8714.htm

# Service-Disabled Veterans' Insurance (S-DVI)

S-DVI provides life insurance coverage to veterans whom VA has granted service-connection for a new disability within the last two years. Totally disabled veterans are eligible for free coverage and have the opportunity to purchase additional insurance up to \$10,000. Veterans must be in good health, other than the service-connected disability. In addition, eligible veterans had to have left service after April 24, 1951 and apply for additional coverage within two years of approval of a new service-connected disability.

#### Life Insurance

Certain veterans who are totally disabled may apply for a waiver of premiums and additional supplemental insurance coverage of up to \$30,000. However, premiums cannot be waived on the additional supplemental insurance. To be eligible for this type of supplemental insurance, veterans must be under age 65, be eligible for a waiver of premiums due to total disability, and apply for additional insurance within one year from the date of notification of waiver approval on the S-DVI policy. Call **1-800-669-8477** with questions concerning life insurance.

# Veterans' Mortgage Life Insurance (VMLI)

VMLI is mortgage protection insurance that helps pay off a mortgage in the event of a severely disabled veteran's death. The maximum amount of mortgage life insurance available to severely disabled veterans granted a specially adapted housing grant is \$200,000. Protection is automatic when the veteran submits required information, assuming he/she does not decline coverage. Coverage terminates when the mortgage is paid off. If a mortgage is disposed of, VMLI may be obtained on the mortgage of another home. Payment is to the current mortgage lender.

# Assistance with Government Life Insurance Programs

For assistance with life insurance programs, call the **VA Insurance Center** toll-free **1-800-669-8477** or visit **www.insurance.va.gov**. For VGLI call **1-800-419-1473**. For all other VA life insurance programs call **1-800-669-8477**. Specialists are available 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Eastern Time to discuss premium payments, insurance dividends, changes of address, policy loans, naming beneficiaries, and reporting the death of an insured.

If the insurance policy number is unknown send the veteran's VA file number, date of birth, Social Security number, military serial number, or military service branch and dates of service to:

#### **Department of Veterans Affairs**

Insurance Center P.O. Box 42954 Philadelphia, PA 19101

For assistance with death benefit claims, mail completed form SGLV8283 to:

#### OSGLI

PO Box 41618 Philadelphia, PA 19176-9913



## Dependent and Survivor Benefits

### **Burial Benefits**

#### **Headstones and Markers**

Veterans and retired Reservists and National Guard service members are eligible for an inscribed headstone or marker for their unmarked grave at any cemetery. VA will deliver a headstone or marker at no cost, anywhere in the world. For eligible veterans or service members who died on or after November 1, 1990 and are buried in a private cemetery, VA may furnish a government headstone or marker (for marked or unmarked graves). A medallion to affix to an already existing privately-purchased headstone or marker for those who served on or after April 6, 1917 can be requested as well.

Spouses and dependent children are eligible for a government headstone or marker only if they are buried in a national or state veterans cemetery.

Before ordering, check with the cemetery to ensure that the government-furnished headstone or marker will be accepted. All installation fees at private cemeteries are the responsibility of the applicant.

**To apply**, mail a completed VA Form 40-1330, along with a copy of the veteran's military service discharge document and death certificate to:

#### NCA FP Evidence Intake Center

PO Box 5237 Janesville, WI 53547 or fax documents to **1-800-455-7143** 

**Note:** Do not send original discharge documents, as they will not be returned.

www.cem.va.aov

www.va.gov/burials-memorials/memorial-items/headstones-markers-medallions

### **Presidential Memorial Certificates**

Certificates signed by the President are issued upon request to recognize the military service of honorably discharged deceased veterans. Next of kin, relatives, and friends may request Presidential Memorial Certificates in person at any VA regional office or by mailing a completed VA Form 40-0247 to:

#### Presidential Memorial Certificates (41B3)

PO Box 5237 Janesville, WI 53547 or fax documents to **1-800-455-7143** 



There is no time limit for requesting these certificates, but requests should include a copy, not the original, of the deceased veteran's discharge document and clearly indicate to what address the certificate should be sent.

www.cem.va.gov/pmc.asp

## **Burial Flags**

Generally, VA will furnish a U.S. burial flag to memorialize veterans who received an other than dishonorable discharge. This includes certain persons who served in the organized military forces of the Commonwealth of the Philippines while in service of the U.S. Armed Forces and who died on or after April 25, 1951.

Additional information and VA Form 27-2008 can be found at the website.

www.cem.va.gov/burial\_benefits/burial\_flags.asp

### **Military Funeral Honors**

Upon request, the **Department of Defense (DoD)** will provide military funeral honors consisting of folding and presentation of the United States flag and the playing of Taps. Family members should inform their funeral directors if they want military funeral honors. DoD maintains a toll-free number **1-800-342-9647** for use by funeral directors or for general inquiries.

www.cem.va.gov/military\_funeral\_honors.asp

### Reimbursement of Burial Expenses

VA burial allowances are flat-rate monetary benefits paid for an eligible veteran's burial and funeral costs. Eligible surviving spouses of record are paid automatically upon notification of a veteran's death. The VA will pay up to \$2,000 for veterans who died on or after September 1, 2001. There are allowances for non-service connected death and veterans hospitalized by the VA at the time of a non-service connected death.

www.benefits.va.gov/benefits 1-800-827-1000

### **Burial in VA National Cemeteries**

Burial in a VA national cemetery is available for eligible veterans, their spouses and dependents at no cost to the family and includes the gravesite, opening and closing of the grave, a headstone or marker, perpetual care and a Presidential Memorial Certificate. For veterans, benefits may also include a burial flag (with case for active duty) and military funeral honors.

To schedule a burial, all discharge documentation must be faxed to 1-866-900-6417 or emailed to NCA.Scheduling@va.gov to the National Cemetery Scheduling Office. Family should then contact the scheduling office by phone to follow-up with additional information at 1-800-535-1117.

www.va.gov/burials-memorials/schedule-a-burial

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs currently has space available in two national cemeteries in Michigan:

#### **Fort Custer National Cemetery**

15501 Dickman Road Augusta, MI 49012 Phone: **1-269-731-4164** 

Fax: 1-269-731-2428

#### **Great Lakes National Cemetery**

4200 Belford Road Holly, MI 48442

Phone: **1-248-328-0386** Fax: **1-248-328-0612** 

### State Veterans' Burial Expenses

Under Michigan law, eligible veterans (or the wife or widow of a qualified veteran) who meet residency and asset limits may qualify for burial expense amount paid by the County Board of Commissioners or the Board of County Auditors. The Soldiers Relief Commission of each county has the responsibility for investigating each claim.

## Survivor Benefits for Spouse and Children – U.S. Federal Benefits

### **Survivors Pension**

The Survivors Pension benefit, which may also be referred to as death pension, is a taxfree monetary benefit payable to a low-income, un-remarried surviving spouse and/or unmarried child(ren) of a deceased veteran with wartime service.

**To apply**, download and complete VA Form 21P-534EZ, "Application for DIC, Death Pension, and/or Accrued Benefits" and mail to the Milwaukee VA Pension Center at:

#### **Department of Veterans Affairs**

Pension Intake Center P.O. Box 5365

Janesville, WI 53547-5365

Fax: **1-844-655-1604** 

www.benefits.va.gov/pension/spousepen.asp



## Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC)

**DIC** is a tax-free monetary benefit paid to eligible survivors of veterans whose death resulted from a service-related injury or disease.

Payments will be offset by any amount received from judicial proceedings brought on by the veteran's death. The discharge must have been under conditions other than dishonorable.

Surviving spouses and/or children must meet certain eligibility requirements. **To apply**, complete VA Form 21P-534EZ on the website.

#### www.va.gov/disability/dependency-indemnity-compensation

Detroit Benefits Office 477 Michigan Avenue 1-800-827-1000

#### Aid and Attendance and Housebound Benefits

Veterans and surviving spouses who are eligible for a VA pension, DIC, or survivors pension may also be eligible for Aid and Attendance or Housebound benefits. To apply for these benefits, send evidence to the **Milwaukee VA Pension Center** validating the need for aid and attendance or housebound care. The request should include information as to whether there is disease or injury producing physical or mental impairment, loss of coordination, or conditions affecting the ability to dress and undress, to feed oneself, to attend to sanitary needs and to keep oneself ordinarily clean and presentable. Mail requests to:

#### **Department of Veterans Affairs**

ATTN: Milwaukee Pension Center Claims Intake Center P.O. Box 5192 Janesville, WI 53547-5192

Fax: **1-844-655-1604** 



# Financial Emergencies and Veterans Resources

## Programs – State of Michigan

### Michigan Veterans Trust Fund Emergency Grant Program

Financial assistance may be available to certain Michigan veterans serving at least 180 days of active duty in a wartime period who were discharged under honorable conditions. The program assists with an unforeseen situation that causes a temporary or short-term financial emergency or hardship that a grant will resolve. Examples of such needs include delay in unemployment benefits or other income or unexpected hospitalizations that cause reductions in income to meet household needs. The grants may assist with housing, utilities, car payments, or insurance or medical assistive devices. Coordination is made with other agencies that may also assist with these types of needs.

Contact the Veterans Trust Fund at 1-800-MICHVET or your County Veterans Affairs Office (see page 42).

www.michigan.gov/mvaa

### State of Michigan – Department of Health and Human Services

The Department of Health and Human Services provides cash assistance to families with children and pregnant women to help them pay for living expenses such as rent, heat, utilities, clothing, food, and personal care items. Assistance in finding a job or developing needed job skills, help with transportation, child care, and other needs related to employment and training may also be provided.

#### Soldiers Relief Commission

In some counties, emergency relief grants are available to Michigan veterans who do not meet Michigan Veterans Trust Fund criteria. Funds are limited, so the commission makes an effort to refer veterans who are eligible to other sources of financial assistance.

Contact a County Veterans Service Officer online.

www.michigan.gov/mvaa/county-filter-search-locations 1-800-642-4838

You may also consult your local phone book for county government. Usually this is handled by the office of Veteran Affairs.

## Additional State Benefits Hunting and Fishing Licenses

As of March 2013, fees for fishing and hunting licenses will be waived for disabled veterans. Only licenses that do not require a lottery can be obtained free of charge. Proof of eligibility must be presented at time of purchase and carried when hunting or fishing. Disabled hunters are those who have been determined by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs to be permanently and totally disabled as a result of military service for a disability other than blindness.

Each organization has its own set of procedures to follow. Contact them directly for their requirements.



## **Recreation Passport**

The Recreation Passport sticker provides access to all state parks, state recreation areas, and state boat launches. This does not include local, county, municipal, or metropolitan parks or recreation areas.

Vehicles with the following license plates do not require a Recreation Passport:

- 100% disabled veteran
- Ex-POW
- Medal of Honor

#### State ID and Drivers Licenses

Honorably discharged veterans may request their drivers license or state ID card to include a special veteran designation. This will allow veterans to take advantage of many discounts and services available to them that require proof of military service.



#### Federal ID

As of May 2018, the federal VA also has identification cards available for veterans. The card is offered to veterans with an honorable discharge and can be used to prove military service. The cards are not valid ID to obtain veterans benefits. To apply for an official federal government veteran ID card, visit, www.va.gov.

www.va.gov/records/get-veteran-id-cards/vic

### Michigan National Guard Family Program

Many veterans continue to serve in the Michigan National Guard. If you are a member of the National Guard, there are resources and information focused on your unique needs.

The National Guard has established Family Assistance Centers (FAC) and Wing Coordinators (WC) across the state to provide National Guard members or active duty military members stationed in Michigan, and their families, a point of contact when the family's soldier, sailor, Marine or Airman is deployed.

The Michigan National Guard Family fund was created to assist Air and Army National Guard families who experience sudden and unexpected financial difficulties with temporary financial assistance. For more information on **Michigan National Guard Family Assistance Centers** and the **National Guard Family Fund** see website.

#### minationalguard.dodlive.mil/Resources/Family-Programs

#### Family Assistance Centers Coordinator

3423 N. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Building 31

Lansing, MI 48906

Phone: 1-517-481-9889 Fax: 1-517-481-9886

## **Energy Assistance Programs**

The **Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)** provides federal funds to each state to assist low-income families with energy costs. In Michigan, the LIHEAP block grant is used for the following programs:

- Home Heating Credit
- State Emergency Relief (SER)
- Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP)

For more information, visit the **Department of Health and Human Services** online.

www.michigan.gov/heatingassistance

## Additional Assistance Programs:

- Army Emergency Relief www.aerhq.org
- Air Force Aid Society www.afas.org
- Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society www.nmcrs.org
- Coast Guard Mutual Assistance www.cgmahq.org

#### Within Local Communities:

- American Red Cross
   www.redcross.org or
   www.redcross.org/get-help/military-families/services-for-veterans
- Veterans of Foreign Wars (see page 44 for list)
- The American Legion (see page 44 for list)

The **Michigan Association of County Veterans Counselors (MACVC)** may be able to assist veterans and their families in obtaining county, state, and federal benefits to which they are entitled. Visit the MACVC website.

www.macvc.net

## Michigan Veterans Trust Fund Representatives

## Contact Information by County

Alcona 989-724-9510 or 1-80	00-642-4838	Lake	. 231-745-6003
Alger90	06-387-1635	Lapeer	. 810-667-0256
Allegan		Leelanau	
Alpena 98		Lenawee	
Antrim		Livingston	
Arenac		Luce	
Baraga 90	06-524-5454	Mackinac	
Barry		Macomb	
Bay 98		Manistee	
Benzie 23		Marquette	
Berrien 269-983-7111		Mason	
Branch 51	7-279-4322	Mecosta	
Calhoun 26		Menominee	
Cass 26		Midland	
Charlevoix	31-547-7220	Missaukee	
Cheboygan23		Monroe	
Chippewa 90		Montcalm	
Clare98		Montmorency	
Clinton and Ingham 51		Muskegon	
Crawford		Newaygo	
Delta90		Oakland	
Dickinson 90		Oceana	
Eaton 51		Ogemaw	
Emmet		Ontonagon	
Genesee		Osceola	
Gladwin 98		Oscoda	
Gogebic90		Otsego	
Grand Traverse		Ottawa	
Gratiot		Presque Isle	
Hillsdale51		Roscommon	
Houghton90		Saginaw	
Huron	39-269-8911	Sanilac	
Ingham and Clinton 51		Schoolcraft	
Ionia		Shiawassee	
losco			
Iron		St. Clair	
Isabella98		St. Joseph	
Jackson		Tuscola	
Kalamazoo		Van Buren	
Kalkaska		Washtenaw	
Kent61		Wayne	
Keweenaw90	16-934-2354 I	Wexford	. 231-//5-6654

www.michigan.gov/mvaa/county-filter-search-locations

Note: Phone numbers subject to change.

## Michigan Department of Health and Human Services Contact Information by County

Alcona         989-724-9000         Lake         231-745-8159           Alger         906-628-7002         Lapeer         810-667-0800           Allegan         269-673-7700         Leelanau         231-941-3900           Alpena         989-354-7200         Lenawee         517-264-6300           Antrim         231-533-8664         Livingston         517-548-0200           Arenac         989-846-5500         Luce         906-293-5144           Barga         906-275-5050         Mackinac         906-438-9550           Barry         269-848-3200         Mackinac         906-438-9550           Bary         899-875-2100         Manistee         231-723-8375           Berzie         231-882-1330         Marquette         906-228-961           Berrien         844-444-3447         Mason         231-845-739           Branch         517-279-4200         Mecosta         231-776-4300           Calhoun         269-966-1284         Menominee         906-833-965           Cass         269-445-0200         Midland         989-835-7040           Chairevoix         231-348-1600         Missaukee         231-779-4500           Chairevoix         231-348-1600         Montroel         734-243-7200	Alcond	00 704 0000 I	Laka	021 745 0150
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Alpena         989-354-7200         Lenawee         517-264-6300           Antrim         231-533-8664         Livingston         517-548-0200           Arenac         987-846-5500         Luce         906-293-5144           Baroga         906-275-5050         Mackinac         906-643-9550           Barry         269-948-3200         Maccomb         586-412-6100           Bary         989-895-2100         Manistee         231-723-8375           Berzie         231-882-1330         Marquette         906-228-9691           Berrien         844-464-3447         Mason         231-845-7391           Branch         517-279-4200         Mecosta         231-796-4300           Calhoun         269-966-1284         Menominee         906-83-9965           Cass         269-445-0200         Midland         989-835-7040           Charlevoix         231-348-1400         Missaukee         231-779-4500           Cheboygan         231-627-8500         Morroe         734-243-7200           Chippewa         906-635-4100         Morroe         734-243-7200           Cliare         989-539-4260         Montroel         989-831-8400           Clare         989-348-7691         Mewaygo         231-689-5500 <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td>				
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Baraga         906-275-5050         Mackinac         906-643-9550           Barry         269-948-3200         Macomb         586-412-6100           Bary         269-948-3200         Macomb         586-412-6100           Bary         98-895-2100         Manistee         231-723-8375           Berzie         231-882-1330         Marquette         906-28-969           Berrien         844-464-3447         Mason         231-845-7391           Branch         517-279-4200         Mecosta         231-79-64300           Calhoun         269-966-1284         Menominee         906-83-9965           Cass         269-445-0200         Midland         98-835-7040           Charlevoix         231-348-1600         Missaukee         231-779-4500           Cheboygan         231-627-8500         Monroe         734-243-7200           Chippewa         906-635-4100         Montaclm         98-831-8400           Clare         989-539-4260         Montaclm         98-831-8400           Clare         989-539-4260         Montmorency         98-785-418           Clinton         989-224-5500         Muskegon         231-733-3700           Crawford         989-348-7691         Newaygo         231-689-5500				
Barry         269-48-3200         Macomb         586-412-6100           Bay         989-895-2100         Manistee         231-723-8375           Benzie         231-822-1330         Marquette         906-228-9691           Berrien         844-464-3447         Mason         231-845-7391           Branch         517-279-4200         Mecosta         231-796-4300           Calhoun         269-966-1284         Menominee         906-863-9965           Cass         269-445-0200         Midland         989-835-7040           Charlevoix         231-348-1600         Missaukee         231-779-4500           Charlevoix         231-348-1600         Monroe         734-243-7200           Chippewa         906-635-4100         Monroe         734-243-7200           Clire         989-539-4260         Montroelm         989-81-8400           Clire         989-348-7691         Montmorency         989-785-418           Clinton         989-348-7691         Newaygo         231-689-5500           Dickinson         906-786-5394         Oakland         248-975-5400           Dickinson         906-794-4100         Oceana         231-737-33700           Eaton         517-543-0860         Oceana         231-786-43				
Bay         989-895-2100         Manistee         231-723-8375           Benzie         231-882-1330         Marquette         906-228-9691           Berrien         844-464-3447         Mason         231-845-7391           Branch         517-279-4200         Mecosta         231-796-4300           Calhoun         269-966-1284         Menominee         906-863-9765           Cass         269-445-0200         Midland         989-835-7040           Charlevoix         231-348-1600         Missaukee         231-779-4500           Cheboygan         231-627-8500         Monroe         734-243-7200           Chippewa         906-635-4100         Montroelm         989-831-8400           Clare         989-539-4260         Montmorency         989-81-8400           Clare         989-348-7691         Montmorency         989-785-4218           Clinton         989-245-5500         Muskegon         231-733-3700           Delta         906-786-5394         Dakland         248-975-5400           Dickinson         906-779-4100         Oakland         248-975-5400           Eaton         517-543-0860         Oceana         231-873-2251           Genesee         810-760-2200         Oftonagon         90				
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Calhoun         269-966-1284         Menominee         906-863-9965           Cass         269-445-0200         Midland         989-835-7040           Charlevoix         231-348-1600         Missaukee         231-779-4500           Cheboygan         231-627-8500         Monroe         734-243-7200           Chippewa         906-635-4100         Monroe         734-243-7200           Clire         989-539-4260         Montroelm         989-818-400           Clire         989-539-4260         Montroelm         989-818-400           Cimton         989-224-5500         Montroencry         989-785-4218           Cimton         989-348-7691         Newaygo         231-733-3700           Crawford         989-348-7691         Newaygo         231-689-5500           Delta         906-779-4100         Oakland         248-975-5400           Dickinson         906-779-4100         Oceana         231-873-7251           Emmet         231-348-1600         Ogemaw         989-345-5135           Emmet         231-348-1600         Ogemaw         989-345-5135           Galdwin         989-426-3300         Oscoda         231-796-4300           Gogebic         906-663-6200         Oscoda         989-732-170			Mason	231-845-7391
Cass         269-445-0200         Midland         989-835-7040           Charlevoix         231-348-1600         Missaukee         231-779-4500           Cheboygan         231-627-8500         Monroe         734-243-7200           Chippewa         906-635-4100         Monroe         734-243-7200           Clare         989-539-4260         Montalm         989-831-8400           Clare         989-539-4260         Montmorency         989-785-4218           Clinton         989-224-5500         Montmorency         989-785-4218           Clinton         989-348-7691         Muskegon         231-733-3700           Delta         906-786-5394         Dakind         248-975-5400           Dickinson         906-779-4100         Cakland         248-975-5400           Eaton         517-543-0860         Oceana         231-873-7251           Emmet         231-348-1600         Ogemaw         989-345-5135           Genesee         810-760-2200         Ontonagon         906-813-7006           Gladwin         989-426-3300         Osceola         231-796-4300           Gogebic         906-663-6200         Oscoda         989-826-4000           Graditot         989-875-5181         Ottawa         616-39			Mecosta	231-796-4300
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Clinfon         789-224-3500         Muskegon.         231-733-3700           Crawford         989-348-7691         Newaygo.         231-689-5500           Dickinson         906-779-4100         248-975-5400           Eaton         517-543-0860         Oceana         231-873-7251           Emmet         231-348-1600         Ogemaw         989-345-5135           Genesee         810-760-2200         Ontonagon         906-813-7006           Gladwin         989-426-3300         Oscoda         231-976-4300           Gogebic         906-663-6200         Oscoda         989-826-4000           Gratiot         989-875-5181         Ottawa         616-394-7200           Hillsdale         517-439-2200         Presque Isle         989-734-2108           Houghton         906-482-0500         Roscommon         989-366-2300           Huron         989-269-9201         Saginaw         989-758-1100           Ingham         517-887-9400         Sanilac         810-648-4420           Ionia         616-527-5200         Schoolcraft         906-341-2114           Iosco         989-362-0300         Shiawassee         989-725-3200           Iron         906-265-9958         St. Clair         810-966-2000 <td></td> <td>l l</td> <td></td> <td></td>		l l		
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#### www.michigan.gov/mdhhs

Note: Phone numbers subject to change.

## **Veterans Service Organizations**

Detroit Region - Patrick V. McNamara Federal Building

477 Michigan Avenue, Detroit 48226

**American Legion** 

Phone: 1-313-964-6640

**AMVETS** 

Phone: 1-313-471-3982

**Disabled American Veterans** 

Phone: **1-313-964-6595** 

Paralyzed Veterans of America

Phone: 1-313-471-3996

**Veterans of Foreign Wars** 

Phone: 1-313-964-6510

**Vietnam Veterans of America** 

Phone: 1-313-961-9568

## **Veterans Website Locator Service Organizations**

Marine Corps League

Locator Website: mcInational.org

Military Order of the Purple Heart

Locator Website: purpleheart.org

**NOTE:** Local veterans organizations may have a service officer who can help fill out forms or advise on benefits.

## **Federal Agencies**

#### **Department of Justice**

**Civil Rights Division** 

950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20530

Phone: 1-202-514-2000

U.S. Department of Labor -Veterans
Employment and Training (USDOL/VET)

Phone: 1-866-4-USA-DOL (4-2365) www.dol.gov/agencies/vets Lansing Office: 1-517-241-9840

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (USDVA)

McNamara Building, 12th Floor 477 Michigan Avenue Detroit, MI 48226

Toll-Free: 1-800-827-1000

## Michigan State Agencies

www.michigan.gov

#### Michigan Department of Civil Rights

#### **Detroit Service Center**

Cadillac Place, Suite 3-600 3054 W. Grand Boulevard

Detroit, MI 48202

Phone: **1-313-456-3700** Toll-Free: **1-800-482-3604** Fax: **1-313-456-3701** 

TTY: 1-877-878-8464

E-mail: MDCRServiceCenter@michigan.gov

#### **Lansing Office**

Capitol Tower Building

110 West Michigan Avenue, Suite 800

Lansing, MI 48933

Phone: 1-517-335-3165 Fax: 1-517-241-0546 TTY: 1-517-241-1965

E-mail: MDCR-INFO@michigan.gov

## Division on Deaf, DeafBlind, and Hard of Hearing

Cadillac Place, Suite 3-600 3054 W. Grand Boulevard

Detroit, MI 48202 VP: **1-313-437-7035** 

Toll-Free Voice/TTY: 1-877-499-6232

Fax: 1-313-456-3721

E-mail: DODDBHH@michigan.gov

## Michigan Department of Health and Human Services

333 S. Grand Avenue P.O. Box 30195 Lansing, MI 48909

Phone: **1-517-241-3740** 

Michigan Relay Center at 711

## Michigan Developmental Disabilities Council

Lewis Cass Building, Garden Level 320 S. Walnut Street

Lansing, MI 48913

Phone: **1-517-335-3158** Fax: **1-517-335-2751** TDD: **1-517-335-3171** 

E-mail: mdhhs-dd-council@michigan.gov

Facebook: www.facebook.com

MIDDCouncil

#### Michigan Rehabilitation Services

1048 Pierpont Drive, Suite 1

Lansing, MI 48913

Phone: 1-517-241-5122 Toll-Free: 1-877-901-7392

TTY Toll-Free: 711 and ask for toll-free number

## Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs

#### **Bureau of Services for Blind Persons**

702 W. Kalamazoo Street

P.O. Box 30652 Lansing, MI 48909

Phone: 1-517-241-1100 Fax: 1-517-335-5140 Toll-Free: 1-800-292-4200

## Michigan Department of Military and Veterans Affairs

3423 N. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Bldg. 32

Lansing, MI 48906

Phone: 1-517-481-8083

### Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency

222 N. Washington Square, 5th Floor

Lansing, MI 48933

Phone: 1-800-MICH-VET (1-800-642-4838)

## Michigan Department of Treasury

Individual Income Tax Treasury Building Lansing, MI 48922 Phone: **517-636-4486** 

TTY: **Dial 1** for assistance

## Issues with Claim Assistance

#### How to file a complaint

If a veteran thinks a person or organization assisting with a VA benefit claim has done something illegal or unethical, a complaint should be filed with the Office of General Counsel in the VA's office. The Office of General Counsel is authorized to investigate complaints and remove an individual's VA accreditation. A complaint should include a detailed summary of allegations of misconduct by the individual or organization, a completed and signed VA Form 3288 and additional information pertinent to the complaint.

For information on Form 3288 call 1-202-461-7699.

www.va.gov/ogc/accreditation.asp

To file a complaint:

#### **Department of Veterans Affairs**

Office of General Counsel (022D) 810 Vermont Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20420 Phone: **1-202-461-7699** 

Fax: **1-202-495-5457** 

E-Mail: ogcaccreditationmailbox@va.gov

### **Additional Resources**

## Federal Benefits for Veterans and Dependents

If you would like more detailed information on veteran benefits and services, contact:

#### **United States Department of Veterans Affairs**

810 Vermont Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20420 Phone: **1-800-827-1000** 

TDD: **711** www.va.gov



### **Helpful Phone Numbers:**

Bereavement Counseling	1-202-461-6530
Education	1-888-442-4551
Headstones and Markers	1-800-697-6947
Health Care	1-877-222-8387
Homeless Veterans	1-877-424-3838
Home Loans	1-888-827-3702
Life Insurance	1-800-669-8477
Pension Management Center	1-877-294-6380
Special Health Issues	1-800-749-8387
Telecommunication Device for the Deaf (TDD)	711
VA Benefits	1-800-827-1000
Veterans Crisis Line	988
	Press 1
Women Veterans	1-855-829-6636

#### Forms, Documents:

VA Forms www.va.gov/vaforms

U.S. Government Forms www.usa.gov

#### DD-214 Lost Documents:

For service members whose home of record at the time of discharge from the military was Michigan or who elected to have their DD-214 sent to Michigan, DD-214 requests can be made through MVAA. Complete and submit a **Request for Record of Active Military Service** form online at **www.michigan.gov/mvaa** or call **1-800-MICH-VET**. MVAA will need the veteran's full name, date of birth, and social security number to search the database. Note that MVAA can only release certified copies to the veteran or next of kin after verification of identity.

#### Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency

3423 N. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Bldg. 32

Lansing, MI 48906

Phone: 1-800-MICH-VET (1-800-642-4838)

Discharge documents are also available from the National Personnel Records Center (PRC) online military personnel records systems. The electronic application can be accessed online.

www.archives.gov/personnel-records-center/military-personnel

#### Resources

#### **Helpful Links:**

#### **VA Home Page**

www.va.gov

#### **Education Benefits**

www.gibill.va.gov

#### **Health Care Eligibility**

www.va.gov/health-care/eligibility

#### **Returning Service Members**

www.oefoif.va.gov

#### **Home Loan Guaranty**

www.benefits.va.gov/homeloans

#### **Records**

www.archives.gov/veterans

#### **VA Benefit Payment Rates**

www.benefits.va.gov/compensation/rates-index.asp

#### Mental Health

www.mentalhealth.va.gov

#### Life Insurance

www.insurance.va.gov

#### Women Veterans Health Care

www.womenshealth.va.gov

#### My HealtheVet

www.myhealth.va.gov

#### **VA Fact Sheets**

www.benefits.va.gov/benefits/factsheets.asp#bm7

#### Michigan Veterans Benefits Site

www.michigan.gov/mvaa

#### **TRICARE**

www.tricare.mil

#### Military OneSource

www.militaryonesource.mil

#### **Department of Defense**

www.defense.gov

#### **Military Funeral Honors**

www.cem.va.gov/CEM/index.asp

#### **Arlington National Cemetery**

www.arlinatoncemetery.mil

#### **Burial and Memorial Benefits**

www.cem.va.gov

## Employment Assistance Web Addresses:

#### **Veteran Employment Services**

www.michigan.gov/leo/0,5863,7-336-94422\_95539\_98962---,00.html

#### Veterans' Preference

www.fedshirevets.gov/job-seekers/ veterans-preference

### Federal Government Job Openings

www.usajobs.gov

## Department of Labor Employment and Training

www.dol.gov/agencies/vets

#### **Returning Service Members**

www.oefoif.va.gov

#### **Business Assistance**

#### **U.S.** Department of Veterans Affairs

## Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization

810 Vermont Avenue, NW Washington, D.C. 20420

Phone: **1-866-584-2344** www.va.gov/OSDBU

## Michigan Small Business and Technology Development Center

www.sbdcmichigan.org

#### MDHHS Veteran Navigator

www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/0,5885,7-339-71550 2941 93573-501026--,00.html



## Of Interest to Veterans

## **Veteran Holidays**

### **Veterans Day**

Veterans Day is an opportunity to publicly commemorate the contributions of living veterans. Armistice Day officially received its name in America in 1926 through a congressional resolution. It became a national holiday 12 years later by similar congressional action.

If World War I had indeed been "the war to end all wars," November 11 might still be called Armistice Day. Realizing that peace was equally preserved by veterans of World War II and Korea, Congress decided to make the day an occasion to honor all those who have served America. In 1954, President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed a bill proclaiming November 11 as Veterans Day. (Historically, the first Veterans Day parade was held in 1953 in Emporia, Kansas.)

A law passed in 1968 changed the national commemoration of Veterans Day to the fourth Monday in October. It soon became apparent, however, that November 11 was a date of historic significance to many Americans. Therefore, in 1978 Congress returned the observance to its traditional date.

### **Memorial Day**

Memorial Day was officially proclaimed on May 5, 1868 by General John Logan, national commander of the Grand Army of the Republic, and was first observed on May 30, 1868, when flowers were placed on the graves of Union and Confederate soldiers at Arlington National Cemetery. The first state to officially recognize the holiday was New York in 1873.

By 1890 it was recognized by all of the northern states. The South continued to honor their dead on separate days until after World War I (when the holiday changed from honoring just those who died fighting in the Civil War to honoring Americans who died fighting in any war). It is now celebrated in almost every state on the last Monday in May (passed by Congress with the National Holiday Act of 1971 (P.L. 90-363) to ensure a three-day weekend for Federal holidays).

## Flag Etiquette

Federal law stipulates many aspects of flag etiquette. The section of law dealing with American flag etiquette is generally referred to as the Flag Code. Some general guidelines from the Flag Code answer many of the most common questions.

## Flag Displayed Outdoors

#### Over the Middle of the Street

The flag should be suspended vertically with the union or blue field to the north on an east and west street or to the east on a north and south street.



#### Flown at Half-Staff

The flag should be first hoisted to the peak for an instant and then lowered to the half-staff position. The flag should again be raised to the peak before it is lowered for the day. "Half-staff" means the flag has been lowered to one-half the distance between the top and bottom of the staff.

#### Flown on the Same Halyard with Non-National Flags

The American flag should always be at the peak. When flags are flown from adjacent staffs, the flag of the United States should be hoisted first and lowered last. No flag or pennant may be placed above or to the right of the flag of the United States.

#### Suspended Over a Sidewalk

The flag may be suspended from a rope extending from a house to a pole at the edge of the sidewalk. The flag should be hoisted out, union first, from the building.

#### From a Staff Projecting Horizontally or at an Angle

The flag may be projected from a window sill, balcony, or front of a building, with the union of the flag placed at the peak of the staff unless the flag is at half-staff.

#### In a Parade with Other Flags

The flag, when carried in a procession with another flag, or flags, should be either on the marching right (that is, the flag's own right), or, if there is a line of other flags, in front of the center of that line.

Crepe streamers may be affixed to spear heads or flagstaffs in a parade only by order of the President of the United States.

#### With Non-National Flags

The flag of the United States should be at the center and at the highest point of the group when a number of flags of states or localities or pennants of societies are grouped and displayed from staffs.

#### With Other National Flags

When flags of two or more nations are displayed, they are to be flown from separate staffs of the same height. The flags should be of approximately equal size. International usage forbids the display of the flag of one nation above that of another nation in time of peace.

#### With Another Flag Against a Wall from Crossed Staffs

The American flag should be on the right (the flag's own right which is the viewer's left) and its staff should be in front of the staff of the other flag.

## Flag Displayed Indoors

#### From a Staff in a Church or Public Auditorium on a Podium

The flag of the United States should hold the position of superior prominence, in advance of the audience, and in the position of honor at the clergyman's or speaker's right as he/she faces the audience. Any other flag so displayed should be placed on the left of the clergyman or speaker (to the right of the audience).

#### From a Staff in a Church or Public Auditorium off the Podium

Custom – not the Flag Code – holds that the flag of the United States should hold the position of superior prominence, as part of the audience, in the position of honor at the audience's right.

#### Used to Cover a Casket

The American flag should be so placed on a casket that the union is at the head and over the left shoulder of the deceased. The flag should not be lowered into the grave or allowed to touch the ground.

#### Other than Being Flown from a Staff

The flag should be displayed flat, whether indoors or out. When displayed either horizontally or vertically against a wall, the union should be uppermost and to the flag's own right (that is, to the observer's left). When displayed in a window, it should be displayed in the same way (that is, with the union to the left of the observer in the street). When festoons, rosettes, or drapings are desired, bunting of blue, white, and red should be used, but never the flag itself.

Read a more comprehensive set of Flag Code etiquette rules for display of the American flag.

#### www.usflag.org/flagetiquette.html

P.L. 110-181 amended section 9, title 4, USC, to allow veterans to render the hand salute to the United States flag. The section reads: "During the ceremony of hoisting or lowering the flag or when the flag is passing in a parade or in review, all persons present in uniform should render the military salute. Members of the Armed Forces and veterans who are present but not in uniform may render the military salute. All other persons present should face the flag and stand at attention with their right hand over the heart or if applicable, remove their headdress with their right hand and hold it at the left shoulder, the hand being over the heart. Citizens of other countries present should stand at attention. All such conduct toward the flag in a moving column should be rendered at the moment the flag passes."

#### State Policy for Flying American Flags at Half-Staff

State policy for displaying the United States flag at half-staff as a mark of respect for the memory of military personnel who are killed in the line of duty is found in Executive Order 2013-10.

#### Of Interest to Veterans

As recognized under Proclamation 2003-4, the flag of the United States shall be displayed at half-staff throughout the State of Michigan on a day designated by the Governor when a member of the Michigan National Guard or a Michigan resident servicing as a member of the United States Armed Forces is killed in the line of duty.

When an order providing for the flag to be displayed at half-staff on a statewide basis is issued, Michigan residents, businesses, schools, local governments, and other organizations also are urged to display the flag at half-staff. Half-flag announcements can be found online.

#### www.michigan.gov

## Flag Disposal

The **United States Flag Code** provides:

"The flag, when it is in such condition that it is no longer a fitting emblem for display, should be destroyed in a dignified way, preferably by burning."

Many veterans service organizations conduct ceremonies for the destruction of unserviceable flags by burning. Such ceremonies may be done on June 14, Flag Day, to mark the dignity and solemnity of the occasion. Some local governments may also conduct these ceremonies.

In practice, for individuals who wish to destroy a flag in poor condition, this should be done discreetly so the act of destruction is not perceived as a protest or desecration.



## Michigan Congressional Delegation

#### **United States Senate**

Like every state, Michigan has two Senators in the United States Senate. You will find contact information at the Senate website.

#### www.senate.gov

Select "Senators" from the menu at the top of the page. Select "States" and click on "Michigan".

My United States Senators

### **United States House of Representatives**

Michigan currently has 13 Representatives in the United States House of Representatives. This number is determined by our population and may be adjusted following each decennial census.

You may obtain contact information about our 13 United States Representatives at the House of Representatives website.

#### www.house.gov

By entering your zip code at the top of the page and clicking Go, you will be provided with your Representative's name and contact information.

My United States Representative

## Michigan Governor and Lieutenant Governor

Every state has one Governor and one Lieutenant Governor elected every 4 years. The Governor and Lieutenant Governor are limited to a total of 8 years in office (2, 4-year terms). Contact information for Michigan's Governor and Lieutenant Governor may be found online.

www.michigan.gov/gov www.michigan.gov/ltgov

My Governor		
My Lieutenant Governor		

## Michigan State Legislature

## Michigan State Senate

The Michigan State Senate is composed of 38 State Senators whose districts are apportioned by population.

Contact information for your State Senator may be found on the State Senate website.

#### www.senate.michigan.gov

Click the "Senators" link on far right to obtain the phone number, address, and e-mail of your State Senator.

My State Senator

### Michigan House of Representatives

The Michigan House of Representatives is composed of 110 State Representatives whose districts are apportioned by population.

Contact information for your State Representative may be found on the State House of Representatives website.

#### www.house.mi.gov

Click the "Representatives" link at the top of the page for access to the "Find a Representative" feature or the clickable map to obtain the phone number, address, and e-mail of your State Representative.

#### My State Representative

#### Letters to any of the State Senators or State Representatives may be addressed:

The Honorable (name of Senator) State Senator State Capitol P.O. Box 30036 Lansing, MI 48909-7536

The Honorable (name of Representative) State Representative State Capitol P.O. Box 30014 Lansing, MI 48909-7514

#### **Committee Meetings**

You may wish to contact State Senators or State Representatives on the committee that is designated to review proposed legislation regarding veterans affairs. The name of this committee may change over time.

To find the current name of the committee and the members of the committee, visit:

www.senate.michigan.gov www.house.michigan.gov www.legislature.mi.gov

## Notes

## Notes

The information in this publication is available, upon request, in an alternative, accessible format.

